

WORK OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION IN LAURENS COUNTY.

(By Miss Will Lou Gray.)

This association was first organized by Dr. D. B. Johnson of Winthrop college in 1902. Since that time it has grown in influence and power, until today it ranks as one of the greatest factors in our educational development.

Article II of the Constitution says: "The purpose of this organization shall be to unite all the people of the community for the improvement of our public school: (1) by placing in the school facilities for health, comfort, and education, together with objects of beauty; (2) by planting trees, flowers and shrubs in the school grounds; (3) by encouraging the establishment of a library in the school; (4) by making the school a center for the community, by furnishing instructive amusements.

Article III. Any white woman or child interested in this work may become an active member without the payment of any fee; any white man or woman may become an associate member upon the payment of a fee of 25 cents.

As seen from the constitution the organization is simple, having for its purpose a noble aim and requiring no fee, but service. The county board of education, realizing that a School Improvement association is essential to the life and success of a school, most generously offered to give \$5 to every school that would organize an association, hold at least one monthly meeting during each month, report monthly to the supervising teacher, and raise at least \$10. Encouraged by this offer twenty nine schools have organized associations. The following is a list of the schools, their presidents and the amount raised:

Rock Bridge, Miss Lula Young	\$106.75
Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. W. L.	
Reid	15.00
Bailey, Mrs. B. B. Bailey	51.55
Youngs, Mrs. D. M. Williams	23.48
Lydia Mill, Miss Grace Burnett	16.61
Odells, Miss Jessie Ray	16.85
Renno, Mrs. J. C. McMillan	116.00
Goldville, Mrs. J. H. Haile	50.35
Shiloh, Mrs. Charlie Wilson	68.95
Ora, Mrs. J. S. McClintock	20.90
Lanford, Mrs. Waldrep	15.60
Riddles' Old Field, Mrs. Julius	
Todd	29.40
Shady Grove, Mrs. J. H. Pitts	24.65
Musgrove, Miss Miriam Agnew	6.17
Mountville, Mrs. Alice Miller	140.85
Barksdale, Mrs. E. R. Powers	34.00
Friendship, Miss Lou Lee Henderson	21.50
Old Mountville, Miss Eliza Sullivan	19.50
Lishon, Mrs. A. R. Holmes	20.30
Youngs, Mrs. D. M. Williams	23.48
Oak Grove, Miss Lydia Sloan	10.00
Dials, Miss Emma Harris	23.00
Gray Court-Owings, Mrs. N. L.	
Fender	90.00
Poplar, Miss Mary Simpson	61.00
Wadsworth, Mrs. A. C. Workman	8.00
Grays, Miss Emma Babb	40.00
Hickory Tavern, Mrs. Joe Thompson	100.00
Trinity-Ridge, Mrs. George	77.50
Cross Hill, Mr. W. P. Culbertson	83.00
Total	\$1,232.42
Schools not organized	400.00
Total	\$1,632.42

This money has been raised by different means: plays, entertainments, by the children, box suppers, oyster suppers, cake, candy, and cream sales, lectures, cotton picking, contributions, etc. The funds have been invested in

equipment for the schools: libraries, desks, blackboards, water coolers, globes, maps, shades, teachers' desks and chairs, brooms, stove pipes, pictures, etc.

During the summer of 1913, four new buildings were erected—Renno, Trinity-Ridge, Hickory Tavern and Odells. Wadsworth, Prospect and Sandy Springs enlarged their building. The value of these improvements aggregate \$22,000. The School Improvement association at Renno has raised, since its organization, over four hundred dollars. This school won the piano offered by Mr. John H. Williams of Greenville, for the greatest improvement during 1913. The first school wagon installed in Laurens county, was put in by the progressive people of Renno. The teacher reports better attendance. The schools at Trinity-Ridge, Hickory Tavern and Grays received \$100 in prizes from the State School Improvement association. Manual training on a modest scale is being introduced at Trinity-Ridge. The pupils, with the aid of a teacher, made some of their furniture. It is designed in the mission style, and is very creditable. The Hickory Tavern school was formed by the consolidation of Rabun, Hendersonville and Friendship.

During the year, a large quantity of new furnishings has been placed in the schools. The people are beginning to realize that time and money are wasted by having no equipment. There is not a school in the county, which has not made some improvement. Six new libraries have been established—Center Point, Odells, Mt. Olive, Bethlehem, Reedy Grove and Riddles' Old Field. Nineteen libraries have been increased—Musgrove, Trinity-Ridge, Prospect, Bailey, Fleming Ora, Friendship, Shiloh, Harmony, Dials, Hickory Tavern, Pine Grove, Lishon, Rock Bridge, Goldville, Youngs, Hurricane, Shady Grove and Langston. These libraries have been selected for the little children and through the use of these books, it is hoped that their reading will improve. Special taxes grove, Harmony, and Renno. Barks have been levied at the following places: Wade, Sandy Springs, Musdale, Grays, Princeton, Mt. Olive and Mt. Gallagher have increased their tax. Gray Court-Owings and Huntersville have voted bonds for new buildings.

Clean-Up Day was observed by many of the schools in the early fall. The patrons and members of the School Improvement association assisted the teachers in this good work.

The School Improvement associations have not only added to the attractiveness and comfort of the school buildings, but they have aroused community pride and interest in their respective schools. The work of this organization cannot be too highly commended. Let the aim for next year be an association in every school community.

The State School Improvement association will again offer prizes to the schools making the greatest improvement. Let Laurens county win her share.

Spring Laxative and Blood Cleanser

Flush out the accumulated waste and poisons of the winter months; cleanse your stomach, liver and kidneys of all impurities. Take Dr. King's New Life Pills; nothing better for purifying the blood. Mild, non-gripping laxative. Cures constipation; makes you feel fine. Take no other, 25c, at your druggist.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve for all hurts

Trinity-Ridge.

As we gaze upon this magnificent building our minds wander back to the rude little building situated upon the banks of a little brook about three-quarters of a mile distant. This school was used in 1840. As we peep in we see the old school-master, Mr. Kershaw. He and his wife taught for two years. For about two years we see these teachers following: Messrs. Chaney Stone and daughter, Tack Wright, Jeremiah Cooper and sister, and Miss Abigail. The school now enrolled about sixty. Next came Mr. Lucius McSwain and sister, Messrs. Garlington, Dave Humbert, James Madden, Thomas Griffin, W. L. Gray, Thad Nelson and Miss Laura Martin. After the war was over they built a new building at Chestnut Ridge. This new schoolhouse was opened by Miss Lizzie Alexander. She was followed by Miss Holmes, Mrs. Thompson, Miss White, Annie Featherston, Clara Wham, Minnie Porroh, Mrs. Humphries, Mary Ferguson, Leila Parrott and Alice Blakely. In 1898 the schools were separated on account of the distance from the upper part of the district, Trinity building them a neat little building. The people soon realized that "In unity there is strength." They soon purchased three acres of land from Dr. Dial and rolled the two buildings together. In September, the school was opened by Mr. L. D. Elledge and Miss Elizabeth Hudgens. It now enrolled about seventy-five pupils. In September, 1909 school opened with teachers as follows: Miss Macie McCrley, Miss Nellie Mellett, and Miss Elizabeth Hudgens. In the fall of 1910 they were followed by Mr. J. P. Coats, Misses Payne and Putnam. The last change being made in the resignation of Miss Payne to Miss Roper. The present teachers are Miss Laura Aull, Misses Annie Putnam, Miss Mabel McLaughlin and Miss Carson. We now have enrolled eighty-five and ten grades. The school runs eight months. Our officers of the association are Mrs. J. S. George, president; Mrs. Moore, vice president; and Mrs. Sue A. Pitts, secretary and treasurer. It has raised ninety-five dollars this year. Part of this has been used in completing departments of the school building and the balance in the bank. We have only one to join the corn club this year and four or five to join the tomato club. We have added a basement to our building so the girls may be taught how to do housework as well as school work. A stove was given to us by Leverett Furniture Co. and by next year we hope to have a teacher to teach us how to do home work. The walls of the building are plastered. This year we have had three plays which were enjoyed by everyone. The quartette from Laurens came up and give up some beautiful songs. We now have twelve taking the School Journal.

Lydia School.

The Lydia graded school is situated in Lydia Mill village, about one and one-fourth miles from Clinton. Five years ago this school was made a part of the Clinton public school system, and since that time has moved steadily upward.

Two teachers are employed and the average daily attendance has been the largest in the history of the school. There are seven grades in the school. Four pupils have not missed a day.

The school has a library of over three hundred books in which the children are very much interested.

The Improvement association meets once each month. The following are the officers: Miss Grace Burnett, president; Mrs. C. M. Bailey, secretary; and Mrs. F. K. Johns, treasurer.

This school carried off the honors at the Laurens County Fair, last October, for the best school float.

Annie P. Oxner,
Principal.

Deafness Cannot Be Cured
by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by druggists, 75c.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Only \$1.00 will put a famous Hoosier "White Beauty" in your home next week, provided you come before the club is made up. We want every lady in the county to come and see the "White Beauty," whether she wishes to join the club or not. We feel sure you will be fully repaid for the trip to our store.

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